



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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Date: September 29, 2006  
Release Number TX 332.06

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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR SAN AUGUSTINE COUNTY

**SAN AUGUSTINE, TEXAS, September 29, 2006--** Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, today announced San Augustine County was selected to receive a \$10,000 loan and a \$62,359 grant through the Community Facilities Loan and Grant Program. The grant funds were received under the Hurricane Disaster Assistance Program due to the direct impact of high winds, flooding and power outages due to Hurricane Rita in September 2005.

“USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Programs help rural communities keep pace with the needs of their rising populations,” said Daniel. “Rural residents can utilize our programs to help provide essential public services that will enhance the quality of life for all rural residents.”

The funds will be used to purchase two 4x4 patrol vehicles for the San Augustine County Sheriff’s Department. The office covers approximately 641 miles of roads, half of which are dirt roads not accessible in heavy rains.

In Fiscal Year 2005, \$31.8 million in Community Facility Direct and Guaranteed Loans and over \$900,000 in Grants were obligated in Texas. Funds are used to enhance the quality of life for residents of rural areas by providing the means for construction, expansion, or enhancement of community facilities, telecommunication and distance education programs, and water and waste disposal systems. These programs are important because they supply a number of growth opportunities to communities with improved utility facilities, increased job availability, and technology and educational resources. Since 2001, USDA Rural Development Community Programs have awarded \$1.8 billion for these purposes, and touched the lives of more than 1.16 million households in the process.

USDA Rural Development strives to see that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy by providing technical assistance, funding, and other programs that help rural Americans build strong economies to improve their quality of life. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the Lufkin Local Office at (936) 634-9900, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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